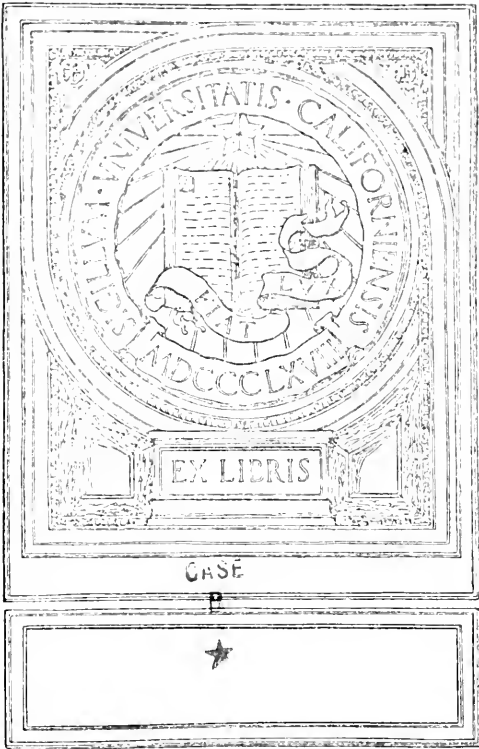


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TO THE READER.



HIS Work is a fac-simile of a very scarce Romance, in the possession of the Editor, and is supposed to be unique, as no second copy is known to exist. It is not to be found in the Libraries of Oxford, Cambridge, or in the British Museum, nor is it mentioned in any of the valuable publications of Dibdin. It formerly belonged to an old woman near Shrewsbury. No printer's name is mentioned, but the type is very much like that used by **Wynkyn de Worde**. The Romance is without date, but from two paper-marks, of which an engraving is here given, some light may be thrown upon the antiquity of this singular and scarce work.

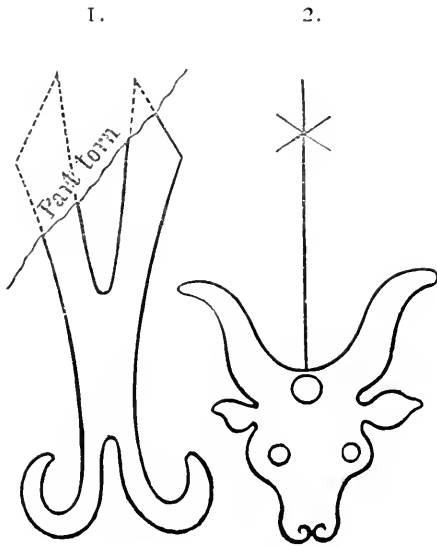
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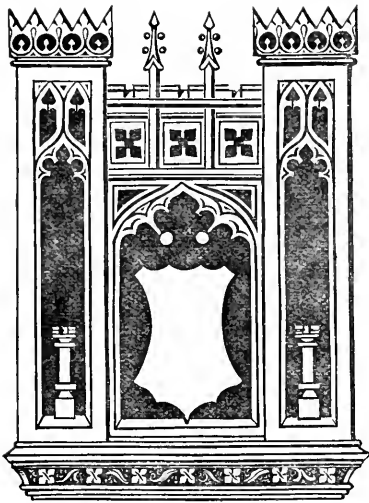
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PAPER MARKS.

Fig. 1. From a fly-leaf. *N. B.* The dotted lines show the part torn off.





Auncient

dayes ther lived an hardie et a stronge manne that hight the valourous Prynce Radapanthus, sonne of the most mightie soveraigne kynke Abrodonte and his faire Queene Collinella.

Now on a tyme whanne the sable nighte gan fade et the gloryous sun to salew the golden daye and gladden the herte of manne, uprose the puissant prince Radapanthus, et having donned hys shyning armoure, and grasped his godely sworde Fitzma-
brande, he mounted his fiery stede Gruffosnorto, and followed by his gentil squire Pintadonte, they sallyed forth in quest of adventure. They vanced on their journey, when towards y noon of daye they entered into a thyeke and darksome forest, where their steps

were hindered by the thornes and brambles and muchel annoyauce from todes and serpentes. The Prynce with hys sworde hewed his way through the bushes, when peradventure striking a stone the darknesse of the Forrest disappeared, et they founde themselves in a passing large playne, but still surrounded by the forest on every side, and in the myddest thereof was a transparent lake, ycleped Belplaisant, in whych was a goodly and a faire gondelay, ypainted ful clene, with purple sayles, and at the helm sate a beautiful and a comely damesel, bedyght in azure and golde and a transparent veil over her head bespangled wyth sylber stars. The prynce was salwed in modest guise by the damesel, et with hys squire wer moste gladsomely received into y^r bote: they glided along the lake till they came to a passing faire river bordered on each syde with many goodlye trees, very pleasaunt to behold, as the Oke, the Elme, the Plane, the Holme, the Cheffeyn, the Beeche, the Popelere, the Wasel, the Maple, the Thorne et the Boxe, while the banks were gayly ornated wyth flowers and flourettes yfretted in divers colours, and dyspredde over alle the plaine. Having proceeded in the bote, that glode along the wyndyng streame for a while, the Prynce Radapanthus and his squire disembarked. So soon as y^r Prynce pulled off a rose and gave it to the damsel, then all att once she wyth her bote suddenly vanished, the sky was quickly

overcaste, an aweful noize was herd, et eftsoon a stronge vapour of cloude et smoke was seen to rise out of the ground; and in the mydst therof arose a fryghtfull and moste uncouth Gyant. He had a swarthy visage, a yellow beard, and a most sternfull visnomie; he was completely armed and mounted upon a fierie dragon. Now the gyant gan most gruffly to growl with grete discourteousness at the Prince Radapanthus, and lifting up a grete iron mace banced towards him. But the valourous Prince, mounted on his horse Gruffosnorto, couched his lance, and with grete hardihood drave it into the dragon's maw, and being unhable to regaine the same, drew hys sword and smote off the left legg of the Gyant. The Gyant roared wyth dolourous payne, when the dragon raised hys taylor, et struck y^e Prince on the helmet, but Radapanthus with his trenchant blade strake off the dragons taylor, et having regained his launce, the dragon sank down wyth passing grete paine, y^e horse snuffed the wynd and ramped most furiously on the neck of y^e dragon, when the valorous prynce lifted up his godely sworde Firmabrande, et cleaved the Gyant thorough the myddel, from the head to the saddle. The Gyant fell downe on each side of the dragon with a tremendous crash, while the blood was despredden all over the field.

Overcome with fatigue and covered with bitter bales the Prynce fell into a swound, whan all attonce the vapour and darknesse of the air vanished, and y^e bloode which covered the field suddenly disappeared, et a gleam of light arose from out of the grounde. Then the damesel of the lake agayne stode before hym with a cup of enchanted liquor, et having besprinkled over the face of the Prynce Kadapanthus, et uttered some strange et uncouth wordes, she mounted a golden chaire bedyght with diamonds and topaz and drawn by wynged serpents: so she rose in the air et eftsoon disappeared.

Having recovered from his swounde by the enchanted liquor, the prynce arose, mounted his horse Gruffosnorto, folowed by his feithfull squire Pintadonte, et pursued his adventure, et having vanced to the ende of the forest, his ears were greeted wyth a distant sound of musyck, which encreased still more as he drew nigh, whanne he gan to spie come ryding forth on a mylk whyte stede in rich array a beauteous ladye yelepid the renowned princess Philamante, with body gentill et middel small: she was cloathed in a mantle of grene felbett et a kirtle of blew ywrought with byrdes of sundrie colores; she was attended by ten comely et

buxome dameselles, dauncyng and playing on diuers sortes of pleasaunt musick et followed by a dwarf with a passing great helmett on hys hed, longe spurres on his heels, and a great cloke over hys shoulders, the which trayled along the grounde. The dwarf, hight Sir Puny, was followed by a squire, carrying hys sworde, and leading a large black horse wyth golden brydel et saddel studded with pearls and musical bells of many sundrie shapes, et a shield bearing a golden appel on an azure field.

N sooner had the dwarf Sir Puny perceived the prynce Radapanthus than he vanced et saleded him most courteously, and showed hym to the moste peerless princess Philamante: the prynce was gretely astounded with the handsomeness of the princess, saleded her most buxomely, which was returned by a moste graceful and soote smile, et condescending to receiue hym as her feithful knyght, in which the prince was passing glad, et so they proceeded in companye, et towards the night arriued at the court of the Emperour Primoso, the father of the princess Philamante, when he was kindly welcomed, and presented to the Emperress Bellafronte.

A

Ad now the golden gate of Heauen gan to open, whan gentle Phebus came joyfully forth and caste hys glitterynge beames up to y^e skie, and shote forth the gladsome daye. Arose the valourous Prynce Radapanthus, and uprose theemperour and all his corte; and, lastly, uprose y^e peerless Pryncesse Philamante yelad in a samite robe yfretted in golde and sylber sheene.

The royal emperour Primeso, as Frenche Clerkes say, was four foote hygh: he was royally crowned with a quintuple crown, et a lofty spire an ell longe, studded with diamond bells et surmounted by a golden phane. His majestie was cloathed in a red and yellow robe, besprinkled with shynng stars, and held in hys ryghte hand a sceptre, surmounted by a crystall ymage of Justice, yblinded et holding a sword and ballance, which scepter was never out of the emperours syght. The emperesse Bellafronte, who was seven foot high, was most gloriously crowned wyth an embattled crowne, surmounted by pynacles in topaz, et was cloathed in

ermine and purpel palle, et in a kirtle besprinkled alle aboute wyth sylber starres, et plettered with golden letters wel bemottoed; her shoone were ornated in curious devices belike unto the Windows of Poules Churche. The royall Emperour handed the Emperess into the royal halle of the royal pallace, followed by the princess Philauante, and the renowned prynce Radapanthus, attended by all the Lordes and Ladies of the corte, bedight in their best array and clad in y^e newest guise. A grande feste was prepared in the grete halle whych was covered with tapestry: here were depictured Adam and his wyf Eve, wyth a serpente: Tobyte and hys dogge; the Kyng of Aye hanging on a tree; madame Susanna and the two olde menne; Potipher and her frende Joseph, in a cote wel depaynted in divers colours, and Duke Josue wyth a golden sunne standyng stille; the three kinges of Colen ryding on their praucing stedes; the Prodigal son without the pygges. The Windows of the hall were ornated wyth royall glas, containyng the achievements of the renowned prynce Potomodo, grete graundefather unto the emperor Primoso: the upper parte of the halle was furnimented with auncient armour. The celinge was moste cunnynghic ycorben with antyck ymagerye and debyees containyng the cotes and genealogies of y^e emperour. At the upper end of the halle on the hiedese, under a canopy of state, curiouslie ycorben and pinaced, sat the Emperour, the Em-

peress, the Pryncess et the valliaunt Prynce; than y^e Dukes, Erles, Barouns, Knyghtes, Squires, and all the Ladies and dameselles of the Corte.

DURING the time of the feste, while the ministralls were pleying in swete concordance and plesant armony manie most joyfull songs, and whyle the squire Carver was holding uppe the huge knyfe and forchette to cutt the mete, a messenger ranne suddenic into the hall in grete terror and dismaye, declaring that an huge and horribel Gyant yeleped Murlotobumpus, was vancing to claim the hand of the peerless Princess Philamante. The whole court were throwen into great confusion et dismay, y^e minstrels surceased their plesant soundes, the pryncess much adawed fell into grete disquietness. From the marvellous puissaunte strengthe of y^e gyant, the knyghtes of y^e court were adawed; none dared to combat with him but only the valourous prince, who rose from the borde, sauns-faile, dyght on his glitterand armour, seized hys sword, and having mounted his goodly horse Gruffosnorto, proceeded in quest of Murlotobumpus: he met him in the courte of the Palace, armed wyth a clubbe et mounted on a red roan stede. The gyant, who cared not for no manne nor yet for no woman neither, vaunced with a sternful visnomie, and wyth mightie strength he lifted up his ponderous

clubb, et heaped blows on the shield of Radapanthus, whych produced dredfull soundes, et shooke the wyndowes of the pallace. The prynce staggered by the force of the blow, but eftsoones recovered: he spurred his stede, ran furiously at the gyant, and with hys godelye trenchant blade chopt him in two below the waist; the bodye with the head and armes fell with a loude et thunderand sounde belike unto a lofty Oak on the playn: the horse fled wyth the lower part of the gyant conteyning the legs et part of the body which remained fixed on the saddel.

Aftsoon the news of y^e death of the gyant arrived at the hall of the Emperour, it was joyfullie hailed with grete joy by the joyfull people: theemperour, theemperess, and the moste peerless pryncess of all pryncesses, et the corte, greeted the valourous prince Radapanthus, et welcomed him wyth manie sweet foundes of pleasaunt music.

In a few dayes after thys strange and perilous battle a right faire damesell and a goode, wyth suffused eyes, arrived at y^e court of the emperour Brimoso, to demaund aide for the Ladie Mirrafonte, against a gyaunt who had wrongfully detained her and alle her knightes and ladies in her Castle as food to satisfy his

hungrie mawe, when he deuoured ebery dape for his dinner two of her knyghts, et eberie nighte a faire damsel or a fatt fryar for his soppere: the Ladie Mirrafonte is reserued for the last; et if she is not reskewed wythin thre dapes, she must be doomed to deathsauns faile, to satisfy the ravenous hunger of the hungerest of all hungry gyants, who has taken possession and secured the gate of y^e castle, by placing thereat a large stone, which no man but hymself can move.

¶ The damesel habying tolde thys woeful tale to the emperour and the court, thre knyghtes arose to proffer their aide: Sir Sterrigogle, knyght of the Comet: Sir Filliguts, knight of the Cups, and y^e vaillant prynce Radapanthus. Lots being drawn for the order of combat wyth the gyant, the first fell on Syr Sterrigogle, who bore on hys shielde Azure, a goldene comet betweene seven starres Argent. Sir Filliguts bore Argent, a bend Sable thre silver cups. The Prynce Radapanthus bore on his shielde, Azure, within a bordore Or, a portrait of the peerless princess Philamante.



Radapanthus et the
valourouse knights with their
squires and the damesell habynge
taken leaue of the Emperour and
all hys corte, went forth in quest
of the castle of the ladye Mirra-

fonte. They journeyed on their way for many a myle, untill they reached a barren plaine, and at a distance they began to spie a wall, which arose out of the grounde, and as they proceeded forward, they suddenly found themselves surrounded by it, et the plain, which was brent by the heat of y^e sunne, was all attonce covered by thornes and bramblers that were risen out of the grounde: they spied a flat stone with an inscription in unknowen characters, and habynge with grete labour lifted it up, they found many steps rudelye carved out of the solid rock, leadynge downe to a subterranean passage. The knights with the squires and the damesel descended, untill they came to a beauteous and splendyd cave, plighted up with golden lamps, and in the middest thereof ranne a brilliant and transparent ryber, that made a murmuring and soote sound. In

sundry places of the crystall streame where it ranne smooth, were seen golden and sylber fysh swymmyng et frysking all about, and in diuers parts of y^e rocks were seen issuing out great and small cascades, and wyth sundrie faire and goodlie fountaynes, which gushed out of the earthe, and glided in beauteous stremes over the pebbles of ruby and topaz, intermyngled wyth curious shels. All about the cave were seene manie passing faire byrdes, gayly bedecked in diuers colores, singynge swete harmonyous music, and whyche twittered wyth their golden and sylber wynges over every part of the cave, but disturbed not the lamps, which hong around the same.

A Drapt and enchanted wyth the lovelyness of the cave, et beyng wearied wyth the length of their journey, the valiant knights and the damesel rested themselves awhile. Eftsoon they arose, and pursuing their adventure through a darksome passage, they came into a spacious court, and saw a golden door guarded by two porters yelad in Lyncolne grene. The damesel habynge pronounced manie strange wordes, threw some water at the doore, when suddenlie it flew open, et the porters vanished away. The three knights and their squires followed by the damesel, tyll they came to a splendid halle, covered with auncient tapestry and

cloathys of baudekyn, wel broidered with golde et sylber, conteynng the feithful hystory of Sir Argente et Sir Poberte. The celyng was wel corbed, and the panels yypainted with azure colores, and ornated with sylber stars bespredden all aboute.

¶ At the further ende of the halle they founde six horses of solid golde, wyth saddels and brydels be- decked wyth perles and rubys, and a faire palfrey of sylber with golden wyngs.

¶ The knightes and their squires having scated the damesel on the silber horse, tooke the golden horses and mounted them, whanne straitways a rum- bling noise was heard, et the halle suddentlie vanished; the carved celyng being changed into black clouds, and the bespangled stars having become the firma- mente in the skie, a few whercof were just seen among the cloudes, and a deep and sombrous darkness covered the heavens wyth tremendous storms of thunder and lyghtenyng.

Proceedyng on their journey the prynce et his companions came into a forest, whanne they wer annoyed by the fearful roaring of beastes, as of Lyons, Beres, Libbards, and Griffons, yet purswed they their adventure till the dawne of dape.

¶ And now hath dame Aurora rising out of the bed of her olde manne Tytans, chased the mornynge

starre, and ushered forth the golden daye: et now Dan Phebus mounting his glitterand car, hath driven on his praunching stedes, when the valorous prince Radapanthus, the tres valliaunt Sir Sterrigogle, et the redoubted knight Syr Filliguts, followed by their feithful squires and the damesel, pursewed their way, whanne they gan to spy a furious and rapid ryber, and over it a splenyd bridge wel ybattled et adorned with crystall pynacles, and at ech ende of the bridge were turrets of alblaster enlaid wyth golde ypoudered with saffire, and surmounted by silver flaggs.

¶ So soon as the knights and the damesel were passed ober the bridge, the squires with their horses sunk into the earth and disappeared. The prince and hys three companions natheless pursewed their adventure, et they soone perceived the Castle of the Ladie Mirrafonte, and advancynge nearer they gan to spie the head of the Gyant, and the top of his club over the battlements of the outer walls, watching for them. On the top of the castle was scene the forlorne ladie Mirrafonte, who from the sorrowfulnes of her grete sorrow, was passing sorrowful, and she waved a flag to hasten forwarde her expected champions.

The Champions aduanced to the gate of the Castle, whan out crept the horribel Gyaunt, wyth a grete mouth, tremendous whiskers on hys lip, and a berd of porcupines quills; his nose was like y^e horn of a rhynocerus, out of the whyche arose three huge eyen, like burning glasses; his teeth were like the iron spikes of a Portcullis: the skull of his emptie hed was made of iron, and his eares were like the eares of an Oliphant.

The gyaunt was compleatly armed in copper gilt, his legs were covered with iron mayle, and his feete with skins of mice; in stead of handes, morcouer he had claws like the claws of Lopsters, and he helde a huge club wyth a sharpe edge, in such guise that it serued alike for knocking down or cutting up.

No sooner was the gyaunt prepared for the combat gainst the right noble champions, thanne the silber horse flew off wyth the damesel, and perched on the top of an hie mountayne.

Of the dredfull combat of thys dredful daye, Sing O Goddessse Clio; and thou Bellona, sister unto the god Mars, come wyth thy flaming torche, drive forth thy car with all thy furie, and nowe make the boldest hertes shiver

with astoundement, and the stoutest courage wax tender in the bowells of the mightie, for dire was the conflict. First Sir Sterrigogle, a passing strong manne, habying couched his launce, ranne furiously at the gyant, but unhable to pierce the armour broke his speare: the gyaunte raised hys clubbe agaynst the knighte, and smote off his hed, when the gode red blood spouted forth from out of hys necke ful hote, like a fountayne, and the bodye fell on the plaine. Thanne the moste redoubted knighte Syr Fillyguts, knight of the Silber Cups, with body rounde, and middel large, advanced against the gyant, who agayne raised his huge club, and most unhendilie chopt off the head of the golden horse; the head flew into the air, and the bodie fell downe with a golden sounde, a sound like golde: then the legs of the knight being under the horse, the gyant trampled him wyth his feete. The Prince Radapanthus habying espyed the fate of his companions, vanced forwarde fans-faile, when the gyant most furiously growled at the valiant prince, swearing by Mahounde and Terbagaunt, and sayd, Advance, caitiff, I am an hungred; I want my dinner: you shal be eaten stewed in onions; the Lady Mirrafonte shal be dressed for my soppere, et shall be eaten wyth apple sawce, so advance. Thou raskally gyant, sayd the Prynce, before thou thynk of the skynne first catch the bare: but behold most

discourteous et greedie brute, looke aboue you, the vultures and the kytes are waiting for your karkase. So saying he drew his sworde Firmabrande, struck a blowe at the gyant, but made no impression on hys armour. The gyant lifted up hys club, when the prynce Radapanthus eluded the blowe; the clubbe fell wyth a loude and dredful sounde on the plaine, et threw up the dust and the stones into the aire. The Prynce dismounted from hys golden steed, and with two puissaunt strokes cleaved off the legs of the gyant below y^e ankles, spite of the mouses skyns, which were charmed in vain: the Gyant who was fighting near the walls of the castle, fell against one of y^e gates, but brains havinge none, he broke his emptye skull, et knocked off one of the turrets and battlements.

N sooner was the furious gyant slain, than the whole aire was covered with a passing grete darknesse from y^e number of vultures and kytes, and other curious byrdes of praye, from far and neere, some wyth feete like dragons, some with wyngs of butterflies, and others with claws like mannes hands, and manie with large beaks like files, to cut away the gyants armour to get att the mete.

¶ The valourous Prynce dounced vnto the courte of the castle, whan he was moste courteously receiued by the most comely and debonaire lady, the Ladie Mirrafonte. Now hath the giant been deuoured, and eaten up to the bones, when the byrdes dispersed into the aire: the silver horse flew over the walls, and descended into y^e court, the damesel alighted, and was kindlye salewed by her Ladie.

¶ Radapanthus having broken open the doors of the dongeons, released the wel fatted but uncaten knightes from their moste woefull of all woful situations, and having restored the castle into the handes of the Ladie Mirrafonte took hys leaue. He went into a passing grete halle yecepid the hall of Scandal, wherein were seen on the walls the tongues of Ladies wel benayled thereon, and much eten by the wormes, manie of the tongues were the tongues of auncient spynsters. At th'end of the halle was a beauteous caskenet, ornated with the Saffyre, the Emerald, and the Carboncle stone, wyth the goodlye worde *Silentium* in golden letters, and within the same were seen certain tongues, well preserved, each of them habvng *Prudentia* written thereon.

¶ And now hath Dan Phebus following the heeles of Dame Aurora, ushered forth the cheerfull daye, whan the puissaunt Prynce Radapanthus, having taken the head of the gyaunt, pursewed his waye to

the Court of the Emperour Primoso, et having crossed the enchanted bridge, he was astounded to see it invisible, et to find it wyth all the turrets and pynacles vanished awaie. The prynce entered the forest wearied wyth the weight of the iron hed, when he joyfullye spied a glitterand car drawn by Griffons, et having mounted it, and placed the head by the side of him, pursewed his way over the forrest, et arrived before the city of the Emperour. He was much astounded when he saw the three lost squires cunningly peorbed in alblaster over y^e gate, and yplaced on curious tablements in nitches overarched, and on the top of the gate the turrets and pynacles of the enchanted brydge. The Prynce entered the gate, et arrived at the pallace, et having salewed the Emperour, the Emperess, and all the corte, retired to the embowred bower of the most joyfullest of all joyfull pryncesses, the princess Philamante, who to see him was passing glad, and so she made a speech, such as never was heard before, and it finished in these wordes, Prynce Radapanthus, mine own herte swete, let us be gladsome that we are heere, and not in the gyaunts maws, merrie and not mangled, swellng with joy and not swallowed, mirthfull moving and not eaten up alive. Many other plesant wordes passed betweene them; but what they seyde et what they did is not recorded in this storie.

¶ Heere endeth the Hystorie of the redoubtable
Prince Radapanthus.

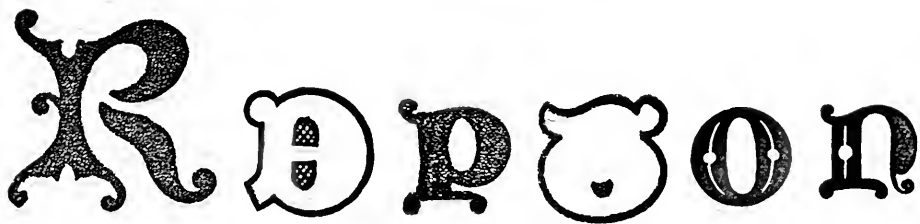
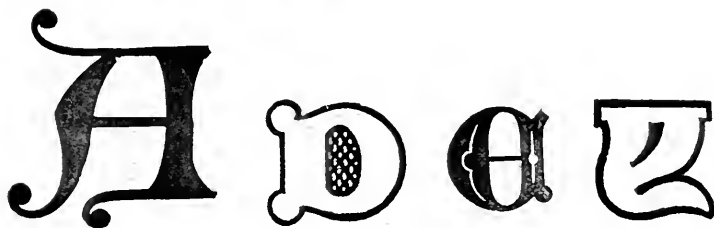
**Emprented for A. R. and to be solde at his shoppe
at the Sygne of the Catte and Fiddel,
neere unto the lytle Northe
doore of Powles
Churche.**

: . :



A READABLE REPRINT OF
 A TRUE AND FAITHFUL HISTORY
OF THE
 REDOUBTABLE
 PRINCE RADAPANTHUS.

THIS little *jeu d'esprit*, or "a trick on Bibliomanists," is a pretended reprint from a unique copy of *Wynken de Worde*, and written by John Adey Repton, son of Humphrey Repton, the author of *Sketches and Hints on Landscape Gardening*, 1794; *Designs for the Pavilion at Brighton*, with the assistance of his sons, John Adey Repton and G. S. Repton, London, 1808, &c., &c. The ornamental initial letters commencing the chapters of the foregoing version of "The Pretender" will be found to form the author's name in full, thus :







A

TRUE AND FAITHFUL HISTORY

OF THE REDOUBTABLE

PRINCE RADAPANTHUS.

IN ancient days there lived a hardy and a strong man that was called the valorous Prince Radapanthus, son of the most mighty sovereign King Abrodonte and his fair Queen Collinella.

Now on a time when the sable night began [to] fade and the glorious sun to salute the golden day and gladden the heart of man, uprose the puissant Prince Radapanthus, and having donned his shining armour, and grasped his goodly sword Firmabrande, he mounted his fiery steed Gruffosnorto, and followed by his gentle squire Pintadonte, they sallied forth in quest of adventure. They advanced on their journey, when towards the noon of day they entered into a thick and darksome forest, where their steps

were hindered by the thorns and brambles and much annoyed from toads and serpents. The Prince with his sword hewed his way through the bushes, when peradventure striking a stone the darkness of the forest disappeared, and they found themselves in a passing large plain, but still surrounded by the forest on every side, and in the midst thereof was a transparent lake, called Belplaisant, in which was a goodly and a fair gondola, painted full clean, with purple sails, and at the helm sat a beautiful and a comely damsel, bedecked in azure and gold and a transparent veil over her head bespangled with silver stars. The Prince was saluted in modest guise by the damsel, and with his squire were most gladsomely received into the boat: they glided along the lake till they came to a passing fair river bordered on each side with many goodly trees, very pleasant to behold, as the oak, the elm, the plane, the holm, the cheston, the beech, the poplar, the hazel, the maple, the thorn, and the box, while the banks were gaily ornated with flowers and flowerets fretted in divers colours, and spread over all the plain. Having proceeded in the boat, that glided along the winding stream for awhile, the Prince Radapanthus and his squire disembarked. So soon as the Prince pulled off a rose and gave it to the damsel, then all at once she with her boat suddenly vanished, the sky was quickly overcast, an

awful noise was heard, and immediately a strong vapour of cloud and smoke was seen to rise out of the ground : and in the midst thereof arose a frightful and most uncouth Giant. He had a swarthy visage, a yellow beard, and a most sternful countenance ; he was completely armed and mounted upon a fiery dragon. Now the Giant began most gruffly to growl with great discourteousness at the Prince Radapanthus, and lifting up a great iron mace advanced towards him. But the valorous Prince, mounted on his horse Gruffosnorto, couched his lance, and with great hardihood drove it into the dragon's maws, and being unable to regain the same, drew his sword and smote off the left leg of the Giant. The Giant roared with dolorous pain, when the dragon raised his tail, and struck the Prince on the helmet, but Radapanthus with his trenchant blade struck off the dragon's tail, and having regained his lance, the dragon sank down with passing great pain, the horse snuffed the wind and ramped most furiously on the neck of the dragon, when the valorous Prince lifted up his goodly sword Firmabrande, and cleaved the Giant through the middle, from the head to the saddle. The Giant fell down on each side of the dragon with a tremendous crash, while the blood was spread all over the field.

OVERCOME with fatigue and covered with bitter bales¹ the Prince fell into a swoon, when all at once the vapour and darkness of the air vanished, and the blood which covered the field suddenly disappeared, and a gleam of light arose from out of the ground. Then the damsel of the lake again stood before him with a cup of enchanted liquor, and having besprinkled over the face of the Prince Radapanthus, and uttered some strange and uncouth words, she mounted a golden chair bedecked with diamonds and topaz and drawn by winged serpents: so she rose in the air and immediately disappeared.

HAVING recovered from his swoon by the enchanted liquor, the Prince arose, mounted his horse Gruffosnorto, followed by his faithful squire Pintadonte, and pursued his adventure, and having advanced to the end of the forest, his ears were greeted with a distant sound of music, which increased still more as he drew nigh, when he began to espy come tidings forth on a milk white steed in rich array a beautiful lady called the renowned Princess Philamante, with body genteel and middle small: she was clothed in a mantle of green velvet and a kirtle of blue wrought with birds

¹BALÉ.—Grief, misery, sorrow.

of sundry colours : she was attended by ten comely and buxom damsels, dancing and playing on divers sorts of pleasant music and followed by a dwarf with a passing great helmet on his head, long spurs on his heels, and a great cloak over his shoulders, the which trailed along the ground. The dwarf, called Sir Puny, was followed by a squire, carrying his sword, and leading a large black horse with golden bridle and saddle studded with pearls and musical bells of many sundry shapes, and a shield bearing a golden apple on an azure field.



NO sooner had the dwarf Sir Puny perceived the Prince Radapanthus than he advanced and saluted him most courteously, and showed him to the most peerless Princess Philamante : the Prince was greatly astounded with the handsomeness of the Princess, saluted her most buxomly, which was returned by a most graceful and sweet smile, and condescending to receive him as her faithful knight, in which the Prince was passing glad, and so they proceeded in company, and towards the night arrived at the court of the Emperor Primoso, the father of the Princess Philamante, when he was kindly welcomed, and presented to the Empress Bellafronte.

AND now the golden gate of heaven began to open, when gentle Phœbus came joyfully forth and cast his glittering beams up to the sky, and shot forth the glad-some day. Uprose the valorous Prince Radapanthus, and uprose the Emperor and all his court ; and, lastly, uprose the peerless Princess Philamante clad in a silk robe fretted in gold and silver sheen.¹

The royal Emperor Primoso, as French Clerks say, was four foot high : he was royally crowned with a quintuple crown, and a lofty spire an ell long, studded with diamond bells and surmounted by a golden vane. His majesty was clothed in a red and yellow robe, besprinkled with shining stars, and held in his right hand a sceptre, surmounted by a crystal image of Justice, blinded and holding a sword and balance, which sceptre was never out of the Emperor's sight.

The Empress Bellafronte, who was seven feet high, was most gloriously crowned with an embattled crown, surmounted by pinnacles in topaz, and was clothed in ermine and purple pall, and in a kirtle besprinkled all about with silver stars, and lettered

¹SHEEN.—Lustre, brightness.

with golden letters well bemottoed ; her shoes were ornated in curious devices like unto the windows of Paul's Church.

The royal Emperor handed the Empress into the royal hall of the royal palace, followed by the Princess Philamante, and the renowned Prince Radapanthus, attended by all the Lords and Ladies of the court, bedecked in their best array and clad in the newest guise. A grand feast was prepared in the great hall, which was covered in tapestry : here were depicted Adam and his wife Eve, with a serpent ; Tobit and his dog ; the King of Aye hanging on a tree ; Madam Susannah and the two old men ; Potiphar [s wife] and her friend Joseph, in a coat well bepainted in divers colours, and Duke Joshua with a golden sun standing still ; the three Kings of Colen riding on their prancing steeds ; the Prodigal Son without the pigs. The windows of the hall were ornated with royal glass, containing the achievements of the renowned Prince Potomodo, great grandfather unto the Emperor Primoso : the upper part of the hall was ornamented with ancient armour. The ceiling was most cunningly carved with antique imagery and devices, containing the coats and genealogies of the Emperor. At the upper end of the hall on the high dais, under a canopy of state, curiously carved and pinnacled, sat the Emperor, the Empress, the Princess and the

valiant Prince; then the dukes, earls, barons, knights, squires, and all the ladies and damsels of the Court.

DURING the time of the feast, while the minstrels were playing in sweet concordance and pleasant harmony many most joyful songs, and while the Squire Carver was holding up the huge knife and fork to cut the meat, a messenger ran suddenly into the hall in great terror and dismay, declaring that a huge and horrible Giant called Hurlotobumpus, was advancing to claim the hand of the peerless Princess Philamante. The whole Court were thrown into great confusion and dismay, the minstrels ceased their pleasant sounds, the Princess much awed fell into great disquietedness.

From the marvellous mighty strength of the Giant, the knights of the Court were awed; none dared to combat with him but only the valorous Prince, who rose from the board, without fail, put on his glittering armour, seized his sword, and having mounted his goodly horse Gruffosnorto, proceeded in quest of Hurlotobumpus: he met him in the court of the Palace, armed with a club and mounted on a red roan steed. The Giant, who cared not for no man nor yet for no woman neither, advanced with a sternful visage, and with mighty

strength he lifted up his ponderous club, and heaped blows on the shield of Radapanthus, which produced dreadful sounds, and shook the windows of the Palace. The Prince staggered by the force of the blow, but immediately recovered: he spurred his steed, ran furiously at the Giant, and with his goodly trenchant blade chopped him in two below the waist; the body with the head and arms fell with a loud and thundering sound like unto a lofty oak on the plain; the horse fled with the lower part of the Giant containing the legs and part of the body which remained fixed on the saddle.

EFTSOON¹ the news of the death of the Giant arrived at the hall of the Emperor, it was joyfully hailed with great joy by the joyful people: the Emperor, the Empress, and the most peerless Princess of all princesses, and the Court, greeted the valorous Prince Radapanthus, and welcomed him with many sweet sounds of pleasant music.

YN[in] a few days after this strange and perilous battle a right fair damsel and a good, with suffused eyes, arrived at the court of the Emperor Primoso, to demand aid for the Lady Mirrafonte, against a giant who had wrong-

¹EFTSOON.—Immediately.

fully detained her and all her knights and ladies in her castle as food to satisfy his hungry maw, when he devoured every day for his dinner two of her knights, and every night a fair damsel or a fat friar for his supper : the Lady Mirrafonte is reserved for the last ; and if she is not rescued within three days, she must be doomed to death without fail, to satisfy the ravenous hunger of the hungriest of all hungry giants, who has taken possession and secured the gate of the castle, by placing thereat a large stone, which no man but himself can move.

The damsel having told this woeful tale to the Emperor and the court, three knights arose to proffer their aid : Sir Sterrigogle, Knight of the Comet ; Sir Filliguts, Knight of the Cups, and the valiant Prince Radapanthus. Lots being drawn for the order of combat with the giant, the first fell on Sir Sterrigogle, who bore on his shield azure, a golden comet between seven stars argent. Sir Filliguts bore argent, a bend sable three silver cups. The Prince Radapanthus bore on his shield, azure, within a border or, a portrait of the peerless Princess Philamante.

RADAPANTHUS and the valorous knights with their squires and the damsel having taken leave of the Emperor and all his court, went forth in quest of the castle of the Lady Mirrafonte.

They journeyed on their way for many a mile, until they reached a barren plain, and at a distance they began to spy a wall, which arose out of the ground, and as they proceeded forward, they suddenly found themselves surrounded by it, and the plain, which was burnt up by the heat of the sun, was all at once covered by thorns and brambles that were risen out of the ground: they spied a flat stone with an inscription in unknown characters, and having with great labour lifted it up, they found many steps rudely carved out of the solid rock, leading down to a subterraneous passage. The knights with the squires and the damsel descended, until they came to a beauteous and splendid cave, lighted up with golden lamps, and in the midst thereof ran a brilliant and transparent river, that made a murmuring and sweet sound. In sundry places of the crystal stream where it ran smooth, were seen golden and silver fish swimming and frisking all about, and in divers parts of the rocks

were seen issuing out great and small cascades, and with sundry fair and goodly fountains, which gushed out of the earth, and glided in beauteous streams over the pebbles of ruby and topaz, intermingled with curious shells. All about the cave were seen many passing fair birds, gaily bedecked in divers colours, singing sweet harmonious music, and which twittered with their golden and silver wings over every part of the cave, but disturbed not the lamps, which hung around the same.




NRAPTURED and enchanted with the loveliness of the cave, and being wearied with the length of their journey, the valiant knights and the damsel rested themselves awhile. Immediately they arose, and pursuing their adventure through a darksome passage, they came into a spacious court, and saw a golden door guarded by two porters clad in Lincoln green. The damsel having pronounced many strange words, threw some water at the door, when suddenly it flew open, and the porters vanished away. The three knights and their squires followed by the damsel, till they came to a splendid hall, covered with ancient tapestry and cloths of baudkin,¹ well broidered with gold and silver, containing the faithful history of Sir Argent and Sir Poverty.

¹BAUDKIN.—A rich and precious species of stuff.

The ceiling was well carved, and the panels painted with azure colours, and ornated with silver stars spread all about.

At the further end of the hall they found six horses of solid gold, with saddles and bridles bedecked with pearls and rubies, and a fair palfrey of silver with golden wings.

The knights and their squires having seated the damsel on the silver horse, took the golden horses and mounted them, when straightway a rumbling noise was heard, and the hall suddenly vanished; the carved ceiling being changed into black clouds, and the bespangled stars having become the firmament in the sky, a few whereof were just seen among the clouds, and a deep and sombre darkness covered the heavens with tremendous storms of thunder and lightning.

ROCEEDING on their journey the Prince and his companions came to a forest, when they were annoyed by the fearful roaring of beasts, as of lions, bears, leopards, and griffins, yet pursued they their adventure till the dawn of day.

And now hath dame Aurora rising out of the bed of the old man Titans, chased the morning star, and ushered forth the golden day; and now Dan Phœbus mounting his glittering car, has driven on

his prancing steeds, when the valorous Prince Radapanthus, the very valiant Sir Sterrigogle, and the redoubted knight Sir Filliguts, followed by their faithful squires and the damsel, pursued their way, when they began to spy a furious and rapid river, and over it a splendid bridge well embattled and adorned with crystal pinnacles, and at each end of the bridge were turrets of alabaster inlaid with gold powdered with sapphire, and surmounted by silver flags.

So soon as the knights and the damsel were passed over the bridge, the squires with their horses sunk into the earth and disappeared. The Prince and his three companions nevertheless pursued their adventure, and they soon perceived the castle of the Lady Mirrafonte, and advancing nearer they began to spy the head of the giant and the top of his club over the battlements of the outer walls, watching for them. On the top of the castle was seen the forlorn Lady Mirrafonte, who from the sorrowfulness of her great sorrow, was passing sorrowful, and she waved a flag to hasten forward her expected champions.



HE champions advanced to the gate of the castle, when out crept the horrible giant, with a great mouth, tremendous whiskers on his lip, and a beard of porcupine's quills ; his

nose was like the horn of a rhinoceros, out of the which arose three huge eyes, like burning glasses ; his teeth were like the iron spikes of a portcullis : the skull of his empty head was made of iron, and his ears were like the ears of an elephant.

The giant was completely armed in copper gilt, his legs were covered with iron mail, and his feet with skins of mice ; instead of hands, moreover he had claws like the claws of lobsters, and he held a huge club with a sharp edge, in such guise that it served alike for knocking down or cutting up.

No sooner was the giant prepared for the combat against the right noble champions, than the silver horse flew off with the damsel, and perched on the top of an high mountain.



OF the dreadful combat of this dreadful day, sing O goddess Clio ; and thou Bellona, sister unto the god Mars, come with thy flaming torch, drive forth thy car with all thy fury, and now make the boldest hearts shiver with astonishment, and the stoutest courage wax tender in the bowels of the mighty, for dire was the conflict. First Sir Sterrigogle, a passing strong man, having couched his lance, ran furiously at the giant, but unable to pierce the armour broke his spear : the giant raised the club against the knight, and smote off his head, when the good red blood

spouted forth from out of his neck full hot, like a fountain, and the body fell on the plain. Then the most redoubtable knight Sir Filliguts, Knight of the Silver Cups, with body round, and middle large, advanced against the giant, who again raised his huge club, and most unhendily¹ chopped off the head of the golden horse; the head flew into the air, and the body fell down with a golden sound, a sound like gold: then the legs of the knight being under the horse, the giant trampled him with his feet. The Prince Radapanthus having espied the fate of his companions, advanced forward without fail, when the giant most furiously growled at the valiant Prince, swearing by Mahounde and Tervagaunt, and said, Advance, caitiff, I am an hungered; I want my dinner: you shall be eaten stewed in onions: the Lady Mirrafonte shall be dressed for my supper, and shall be eaten with apple sauce, so advance. Thou rascally giant, said the Prince, before thou think of the skin first catch the hare; and behold most discourteous and greedy brute, look above you, the vultures and the kites are waiting for your carcass. So saying he drew his sword Firmabrande, struck a blow at the giant, but made no impression on his armour. The giant lifted up his club, when the Prince Radapanthus eluded the blow; the club fell with a loud and

¹UNHENDILY. — Urgently.

dreadful sound on the plain, and threw up the dust and the stones into the air. The Prince dismounted from his golden steed, and with two puissant strokes cleaved off the legs of the giant below the ankles, spite of the mouses' skins, which were charmed in vain : the giant who was fighting near the walls of the castle, fell against one of the gates, but brains having none, he broke his empty skull, and knocked off one of the turrets and battlements.



NO sooner was the furious giant slain, than the whole air was covered with a passing great darkness from the number of vultures and kites, and other curious birds of prey, from far and near, some with feet like dragons, some with wings of butterflies, and others with claws like men's hands, and many with large beaks like files, to cut away the giant's armour to get at the meat.

The valourous Prince advanced into the court of the castle, when he was most courteously received by the most comely and gracious lady, the Lady Mirrafonte. Now hath the giant been devoured, and eaten up to the bones, when the birds dispersed into the air : the silver horse flew over the walls, and descended into the court, the damsel alighted, and was kindly saluted by her lady.

Radapanthus having broken open the doors of the dungeons, released the well fatted but uneaten knights from their most woeful of all woeful situations, and having restored the castle into the hands of the Lady Mirrafonte took his leave. He went into a passing great hall called the hall of Scandal, wherein were seen on the walls the tongues of Ladies well nailed thereon, and much eaten by the worms, many of the tongues were the tongues of ancient spinsters. At the end of the hall was a beauteous caskenet, ornated with the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle stone, with the goodly word "*Silentium*" in golden letters, and within the same were seen certain tongues, well preserved, each of them having "*Prudentia*" written thereon.

And now hath Dan Phœbus following the heels of Dame Aurora, ushered forth the cheerful day, when the puissant Prince Radapanthus, having taken the head of the Giant, pursued his way to the Court of the Emperor Primoso, and having crossed the enchanted bridge, he was astounded to see it invisible, and to find it with all the turrets and pinnacles vanished away. The Prince entered the forest wearied with the weight of the iron head, when he joyfully spied a glittering car drawn by griffons, and having mounted it, and placed the head by the side of him, pursued his way over the forest, and arrived before the city of the Emperor. He was

much astounded when he saw the three lost squires cunningly carved in alabaster over the gate, and placed on curious tablements in niches over-arched, and on the top of the gate the turrets and pinnacles of the enchanted bridge. The Prince entered the gate, and arrived at the Palace, and having saluted the Emperor, the Empress, and all the Court, retired to the embowered bower of the most joyfulest of all joyful princesses, the Princess Philamante, who to see him was passing glad, and so she made a speech, such as never was heard before, and it finished in these words, Prince Radapanthus, mine own heart sweet, let us be gladsome that we are here, and not in the Giant's maws, merry and not mangled, swelling with joy and not swallowed, mirthful moving and not eaten up alive. Many other pleasant words passed between them ; but what they said and what they did is not recorded in this story.

Here endeth the History of the redoubtable Prince Radapanthus. Imprinted for [J.] A. R. and to be sold at his shop at the sign of the Cat and Fiddle, near unto the little north door of Paul's Church.



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